



OCT 27 2009

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OCT 19 2009

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shea-Porter:

Thank you for your September 17 letter to the Secretary of Defense regarding the death of Mr. Adam Hermanson. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

Mr. Hermanson's death is an unfortunate tragedy, and I extend my sympathy to his family. Our warfighters, civilians, and contractors in service to our country deserve the best support possible, and I share your concern for their safety.

Mr. Hermanson was an employee of Triple Canopy, a defense contractor providing private security services to the Department of Defense in Iraq. The Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan (JCC-I/A) awarded the contract to Triple Canopy in September 2007. In January 2008, JCC-I/A delegated contract administration, oversight and evaluation of the private security performance elements of the contract to the Defense Contract Management Agency. As part of the terms and conditions of the JCC-I/A contract, Triple Canopy is solely responsible for providing billeting, showers, latrines and other life support activities to its employees at Camp Olympia.

Camp Olympia is a contractor-operated/maintained living camp located in the Iraq International Zone. The property is under the cognizance of the Department of State, U.S. Mission - Iraq (USM-I). As a part of the Logistics Augmentation Program, KBR is responsible for providing two specific services to Camp Olympia: food and bottled water. The Department does not otherwise provide, manage, or maintain the facilities at the camp.

The Multi-National Forces-Iraq quickly responded to the incident notification involving Mr. Hermanson by initiating a request to investigate and directing its Task Force Safety Action for Fire and Electricity (TF SAFE) support team to inspect the site. The Department of State Regional Security Office and the Army Criminal Investigation Command are conducting an investigation.

The TF SAFE team initiated a formal shock investigation September 2 and issued a report September 7. TF SAFE's preliminary investigation results found grounding and bonding deficiencies. The overall assessment of the electrical system revealed that major

repairs were required to bring the systems to a safe standard. The TF SAFE investigation will remain open until the facility repairs are completed and re-inspected. In addition, TF SAFE deployed two electrical teams to inspect the remaining Triple Canopy facilities at Camp Olympia. TF SAFE briefed the USM-I Ambassador Jeanine Jackson on the investigation findings.

JCC-I/A issued a cure notice to Triple Canopy September 4. The cure notice informed Triple Canopy the TF SAFE inspection found the Olympia facilities wiring to be inadequate and required Triple Canopy to rectify the situation. Triple Canopy has responded to the cure notice, which is now under review by the theater leadership and JCC-I/A.

TF SAFE is aggressively inspecting all facilities in Iraq occupied by military, civilian, and contractor personnel. An additional 36 contractor living camps in Iraq have been identified. TF SAFE has initiated a process to assess electrical systems at these camps and has the capacity to assess approximately two camps per week. Efforts will continue to identify and correct unsafe electrical conditions as they are discovered.

We remain committed to protecting all who serve and appreciate your concern for them. A similar letter has been sent to Representative Schakowsky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ashton B. Carter".

Ashton B. Carter